

Recently, Secretary Yellen told us that the child tax credit has already reduced poverty in our country by 25 percent, just with the first three checks. Imagine what continuation of this important program will do.

This is huge for American families who are struggling to put food on the table, with Latino and Black families suffering the most. The child tax credit would help the parents of almost 8.8 million children nationwide who are going hungry during this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, now is the moment. It is time to do better for our children.

The Build Back Better agenda will bring universal pre-K to our kids and end childcare deserts, an issue that affects children and families in my district and across America. Without pre-K or childcare, parents are forced to choose between their family or their job.

In fact, just a few months ago, I visited a childcare facility that struggled to keep up with the demand due to the lack of childcare infrastructure in Houston. We need to invest in this critical infrastructure for children, for working parents, and for care workers.

Madam Speaker, care workers are essential. They care for our loved ones every day and keep this country running. We need to build back better with investments for our care workers so that their families can have better futures. We need to build back better for the almost one in two adults over 65 in Texas with multiple chronic medical conditions.

Altogether, the Build Back Better agenda will make sure that millions of people in this country and in my home State of Texas gain affordable healthcare coverage. I represent a district that struggles to get vital coverage because the Republican-controlled State government has refused to accept the Federal dollars to expand Medicaid. This is how we build back better for the people who need critical care.

Families deserve that. They also deserve to unlock the American Dream through affordable housing so they can live with dignity. We need investments in first-generation home buyers and affordable housing, housing vouchers, and more infrastructure so that families can say “mi casa es su casa.”

The Build Back Better agenda will do just that, but we must work hard. We must work hard to also provide a pathway to citizenship for the hundreds and thousands of Dreamers, TPS holders, and essential workers. They have been contributing to our economy, keeping this country running, and making it prosper.

The Build Back Better agenda will deliver on the American Dream promise and the values on which this Nation of immigrants was founded. It would fulfill the “give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

The Build Back Better agenda is an American agenda fulfilling this prom-

ise. The Build Back Better agenda is by and for the American people that will allow our country, our families, and our women to heal from this horrible pandemic and build back better with wealthy people and corporations paying their fair share.

This is why we are here in Congress, fighting for the people, fighting for our children, and building a better future so our mothers can rejoin the workforce, so our seniors can get care that will allow them to live with dignity, so our children can get the care they need without having to worry about poverty or going to school hungry, so our families can say “mi casa es su casa” and live with dignity in their own homes.

This is how we build back better for all. Our country doesn't leave anyone behind, so this is how we honor the 329.5 million Americans: building back better for everyone. This is how we honor every single one of them.

Madam Speaker, our time is now. We must get this done. So let's go and build back better now.

ASSAULT ON AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we face an unprecedented assault on the American way of life by the radical left.

Under President Biden's leadership, the left has weaponized the Federal Government to go after the American people.

President Biden is building an IRS army of 85,000 new IRS agents to investigate middle-class Americans and ruin their lives. The Biden IRS wants the power to spy on private citizens' bank accounts and monitor their transactions.

Biden's Treasury Secretary said her next goal is to create a new tax on the value of farmland in America. This will destroy the American family farm and eliminate independent food production.

The Biden-Harris administration is also weaponizing OSHA to fire Americans who live paycheck to paycheck if they don't make a healthcare decision about vaccines that leftwing politicians don't like.

Madam Speaker, I note this hypocrisy from pro-abortion liberals who use the “my body my choice” slogan. We watched last week as Biden's Attorney General tried to defend the use of the FBI agents who intimidated, harassed, and want to spy on parents who show up to school board meetings to speak in opposition to the Biden agenda.

Middle-class parents are rightfully outraged that President Biden and leftwing school boards want to turn their children against each other with racist curriculum or indoctrinate their young children with perverted sexual content.

Americans used to be protected by the First Amendment. They were allowed to speak freely in our society.

Our Constitution and Bill of Rights limit the power of the Federal Government because our Nation is a place where people should be free to start independent small businesses and raise their own children.

□ 1045

The Biden administration and the radical left have a far different agenda. They want to use the FBI to intimidate and harass Americans; they want to use the IRS to spy on Americans; and they want to use OSHA to fire Americans.

The Federal Government is now a tool, a weapon that they want to use to make Americans obey. My constituents and the American people will not be intimidated by the Biden administration or the radical left, Madam Speaker. We are born free and our rights come from God.

Our response to a weaponized Federal Government is loud and clear. In the spirit of freedom, we say: Let's go, Brandon.

RECOGNIZING GRANT WOODS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. STANTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a fine Arizona public servant who we unexpectedly lost just a few days ago: Grant Woods, our State's former attorney general, someone who made a lasting impact on every person he met and on our State and on our Nation.

Before he was an elected official in his own right, Grant was a staff member right here in the people's House. Then-Congressman John McCain chose Grant as his first chief of staff and they formed a friendship that lasted the rest of the great Senator's life.

They had a lot in common. They believed in bipartisanship and compromise, and they were both willing to ruffle a few feathers if they thought it was the right thing to do. And when it counted most, they lived by the most simple creed: country first.

In the 1990s, as Arizona's top law enforcement official, Grant earned a reputation as a fighter for the little guy, and for good reason. He was one of the attorneys general who took on Big Tobacco and won, earning the largest civil settlement in our Nation's history on behalf of countless Arizonans who had been harmed.

After he left elected office, he continued his crusades as one of the Nation's top trial attorneys. He was a true Renaissance man, a writer and a musician, and he was a passionate supporter of the arts and local artists. In fact, he is a member of the Arizona Music Hall of Fame.

He was a tireless advocate for children. In fact, there is a Boys & Girls Club in the East Valley named after Grant Woods. No one was a bigger fan of Arizona sports and sports teams than Grant Woods, and he was an occasional critic of those teams when they deserved it.